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MARYLAND - VIRGINIA

"Potomac River Compact of 1958"



Potomac River Fisheries Commission

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April 20, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health and Human Services
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Sirs:

The Potomac River Fisheries Commission is a Maryland and Virginia bi-state Commission charged with regulation of the seafood resources of the tidal Potomac River between the District of Columbia and the Chesapeake Bay. As such we regulate the oyster and clam fisheries within the river.

It has just come to our attention that the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) has requested the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establish a 'nondetectable' standard for *Vibrio vulnificus* in raw molluscan shellfish, i.e. oysters and clams. Such action would have dramatic and as yet unforeseen impacts on the seafood industry in Maryland and Virginia as well as nation wide.

We request the FDA extend the deadline for submission of written comments on this issue from April 21, 1999 until after the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference meeting this July. The ISSC is made up of state, federal and industry representatives and has participation by special interest groups like the CSPI and it is the national forum for the discussion and debate on issues like this.

Thank you,

Kirby A. Carpenter,
Executive Secretary

cc:
PRFC Commissioners

KAC:llr

98P-0504

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**Potomac River Fisheries Commission
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facsimile transmittal

To: Documents Management **Fax:** 301-827-6870
Branch

From: Kirby A. Carpenter **Date:** 04/20/99

Re: Shellfish **Pages:** 2

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